

• COLORADO RIVER • AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Vol. XI

April 30, 1944

No. 4

Radical New Powers Set Up in Treaty Plan

Meeting in executive session on April 26, the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted to reconsider its former action in ordering that hearings on the proposed Mexican treaty be started on May 1. The effect of this move by the Committee was indefinitely to postpone hearings on the treaty, since no other date for such hearings was set.

Speaking informally and unofficially, certain members of the Committee indicated a belief that hearings on the treaty might be started late in the summer following the Democratic and Republican National Conventions; others leaned to the belief that no hearings would be held until after the November elections.

The veil of secrecy that closely has shrouded the proposed treaty between the United States and Mexico for more than two years, during which time it was being negotiated by representatives of the U. S. State Department and the Republic of Mexico, was lifted a scant two months ago, when printed copies of the document were at last made public. At the same time, it was transmitted by the State Department to the President, and by him, shortly thereafter, it was sent to the Senate for ratification.

When the proposed treaty was made available in February for public examination, it was first accepted as one which basically was devoted to an apportionment of the waters of the Colorado and Rio Grande rivers between Mexico and the United States. California immediately voiced its objections to the unjustified quantity of Colorado River water perpetually guaranteed to Mexico by the proposed treaty, and has pointed out that the giving of such an

Fate of Vast U. S. Area at Stake



Shown in white on the above artist's sketch is the Colorado River basin in Mexico and in the United States as outlined by the Colorado River Compact. It graphically reveals how relatively large and important is this river system and its basin in the United States and how small and unimportant it is in Mexico. The drainage area of the river is 242,000 square miles within the United States, and 2,000 square miles within Mexico. All of the water comes from the U. S. and none from Mexico. All regulating and conservation works have been built within the United States at the expense of United States communities.

amount of water to Mexico would make it impossible for the United States Government to fulfill long-standing contracts which call for the delivery of Colorado River water to California and Arizona communities.

Under the proposed treaty terms, the United States would be required annually to deliver to Mexico 1,500,000 acre feet of Colorado River water. This, despite the fact that prior to con-

(Continued on Page 2)

• COLORADO RIVER •
AQUEDUCT NEWS
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

306 West Third St.
 Los Angeles, California

*Published monthly in the interest of
 Field and Office Workers on the Colorado
 River Aqueduct, and for the information
 of all other citizens of the Metropolitan
 Water District.*

VOL. XI April 30, 1944 No. 4

Treaty Powers

(Continued from Page 1)

struction of Boulder Dam, Mexico never did and never could obtain and use more than 750,000 acre feet. The huge additional quantity of water guaranteed to Mexico by the proposed treaty can be made available only from waters salvaged and stored by Boulder Dam. But the Congressional Act authorizing Boulder Dam specifically provides that the water salvaged and stored by this great structure is to be used exclusively "within the United States."

Opposition to the water division provision of the proposed treaty has steadily increased since the document was made public. At the same time, people of America and their representatives in Congress have had an opportunity to study the treaty in its entirety. This has resulted in a growing realization that the proposed Mexican treaty is not merely a treaty providing for an unjust and inequitable gift of Colorado River water to Mexico.

In the light of careful study, the proposed treaty contains broad and arbitrary provisions which remove for all time from vitally affected states and communities, and Congress as well, any effective control whatsoever over vast and basic natural resources within the United States. It is revealed as a new device by which enormous and absolute powers are granted in perpetuity to the Executive branch of the Federal Government—powers entirely independent and beyond the control of Congress. The Colorado River Board of California has pointed out that,

1. It creates in perpetuity and beyond recall of Congress a two-man Commission (one from United States and one from Mexico to manage and control water and power in the Colorado and Rio Grande river systems of the United States.

2. It delegates in perpetuity to a sin-

California Authority Commends District and Approves Water Quality

Commendation of the scientific and thorough methods and laboratory facilities employed by the Metropolitan Water District to maintain a high quality of water delivered by the Colorado River Aqueduct to the cities and areas of the District is contained in a report made early this year by the California State Department of Public Health. The report is based upon an exhaustive survey made by the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering.

In the course of its survey the State Bureau made a detailed examination of the physical features of the aqueduct all the way from the Intake to the termini of the various distribution lines. The survey included a careful inspection of all reservoirs and the means employed to protect the reservoir water against contamination. The studies gave particular attention to the Softening and Filtration Plant, including the District's fully equipped and expertly manned chemical and bacteriological laboratories.

In concluding its detailed report, the State Bureau says:

"The system (Colorado River Aqueduct) was designed and constructed to be free of all sanitary defects, and all necessary steps are taken to maintain the system in this condition. Adequate

plants are provided for softening, clarification and disinfection. These are excellently maintained and operated under the supervision of Mr. J. M. Montgomery, the consulting engineer who supervised the design of the plant. The bacteriological quality of the water, even before treatment, surpassed the requirements of the Public Health Drinking Water Standards. . . . The management is keenly alive to its tasks in sanitary matters, as in others. We approve this supply for domestic use."

Referring to the precise laboratory methods used by the District to safeguard the quality of Colorado River Aqueduct water 24 hours each day, the report states:

"A complete laboratory exists at the Softening and Filtration Plant where all types of analyses are made. In addition to chemical tests for softening plant control and biological examinations for algae control in the reservoirs, bacteriological tests are made of samples of untreated water, treated water, and from the distribution system."

The report points out that the number of water samples constantly being taken by District engineers and tested for quality are far in excess of the number required by the public health service drinking water standards.

gle Commissioner of the United States, power to acquire title to, control, construct, and operate all water, flood control and hydroelectric power projects on the Colorado and Rio Grande river systems in the United States to whatever extent he deems such works are connected with or affect the carrying out of the treaty.

3. Once the treaty is ratified neither the Senate nor Congress has any right to reject the Commissioner's policies, projects or expenditures.

4. The United States Commissioner is accountable only to the Secretary of State and the President.

5. With the approval of only the Secretary of State, the one-man United States Commissioner may construct and operate projects for the benefit of Mexico at the sole expense of the United States and without consent of Congress.

6. The United States Commissioner and the Secretary of State can bind the United States to international agreements with Mexico on subjects not even mentioned in the treaty and without

Senate ratification or even Congress having any knowledge thereof.

7. The Secretary of State may make agreements with Mexico for the generation, development and distribution of electric power even including the exporting thereof not only in the boundary sections of the two rivers but anywhere else on the rivers or their tributaries.

8. The treaty sets up the machinery and creates the power and authority in the Commissioner and the Secretary of State, beyond the control of Congress and by simple agreement not approved by the Senate, to acquire the property for, construct and operate in perpetuity, national or international projects for water and hydroelectric power. There is no control over rates, operations, fields of service or use of funds. Once ratified, this treaty makes Congress subservient to one man in these matters. Congress must appropriate the funds to finance such projects or breach the treaty.

(Continued on Page 3)

MONTHLY REPORT

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a brief summary of some of the activities of the District as set forth in the monthly report of General Manager Julian Hinds, filed with the Board of Directors in April 1944, covering work done in March 1944.)

Construction

Coastal Municipal Water District Line—District forces completed the fence and cottage at the Corona del Mar reservoir and the cottage is now occupied by the patrolman on this portion of the Orange County pipe line. Power service is being installed by the Southern California Edison Company.

Operation and Maintenance

General—The District units at Boulder power plant, N-5 and N-6, were in operation 97.1 per cent of the time in March. Unit N-4 was substituted when inspection and normal maintenance were necessary. The maximum daily power delivery to Basic Magnesium, Inc. was 4,434,750 kwhr. Total energy delivered to B.M.I. in March was 132,273,000 kwhr, a daily average of 4,266,870 kwhr compared with 4,325,470 in February.

Parker Dam—The water surface in Lake Havasu varied within a one-foot range from elevation 447.0 to 448.0 feet and was 447.5 on March 31. The average discharge of the Colorado at Parker Dam this month was 21,161 c.f.s. compared with 21,658 in February.

Parker Dam Power Plant—The Parker power plant was in parallel with the District transmission system continuously except for one short period of 12 minutes. Energy delivered to the District lines totalled 14,640,000 kwhr, a daily average of 472,258 kwhr, compared with 465,524 in February.

Main Aqueduct—Regular patrol, inspection, and maintenance work were performed, and the canal fence reconstruction east of Hayfield was completed except for stringing the barbed wire on top.

Pumping Plants—The pumps were operated until March 22 to supply water to Lake Mathews and to virtually fill Copper Basin reservoir. Normal maintenance was carried on at all plants and on the transmission and telephone lines.

Distribution System—Water in storage at Lake Mathews on the last day of the month was 83,227 acre feet. Water surface elevation on March 31 was 1346.28 feet, a rise of 5.03 feet, representing an increase in storage for this month of 8,797 acre feet. At the Softening and Filtration Plant water was softened from an average hardness of

372 p.p.m. to 101 p.p.m. The rate of flow through the plant averaged 14.6 c.f.s., or 9,436,000 gallons per day compared with 8,500,000 in February. Regular chemical, bacteriological, and plankton analyses were made of water samples from the main aqueduct and distribution system. Softened, filtered Colorado River water was delivered to Beverly Hills, Coastal M.W.D., Compton, Fullerton, Long Beach, Santa Monica and Torrance.

Office Engineering and Design—Details were prepared of accessories for various operating structures and of miscellaneous items in connection with venturi meters and regulating valves. Drawings and material lists were completed for the necessary electrical installations on the Coastal M.W.D. pipe line and regulating reservoir.

Hydrographic—The proposed water treaty with Mexico required constant attention during the month, with attendance at meetings of the Colorado River Board and other interested groups and preparation of maps and related data. At Lake Mead, water storage decreased 728,000 acre feet to 19,100,000 acre feet on March 31. The water surface elevation was then 1158.41 feet, down 5.79 feet during the month. The discharge at Boulder averaged 21,182 c.f.s. compared with 21,957 in February.

Employment—During the month of March, 8 classified positions were filled, 2 by transfer and 6 by new employment. There were also recorded 17 terminations, 2 changes of status, 6 employment contracts and 75 interviews.

Right of Way—The records of individual parcels in the flooded area of Lake Mathews are being examined in order to compare present Riverside County assessed valuations with those prevailing prior to District acquisition. At the citrus groves, the crop is large, prices are strong, and returns will be above normal.

Purchasing—Total expenditures, covered by 252 purchase orders issued in March amounted to approximately \$19,000. Carload forwardings were 7 cars of sodium chloride to the Softening Plant. Cash salvage sales for the month amounted to \$4285.93. The appraised value of salvage stock on hand at the end of the month was \$301,045.49.

Treaty Powers

(Continued from Page 2)

9. As to the Colorado River, the United States Commissioner may go anywhere in that river system, even into the tributaries, and regulate and take water to make or assure deliveries to Mexico. Article 10 allots water, "from any and all sources" and Article 11 provides for the delivery of allotted waters, "whatever their origin."

10. The treaty makes the rights and interests of American states, agencies, people and projects in the water of the Colorado River System subject to Mexican interests and rights.

11. The treaty sets up a one-man irrevocable works administration with practically unlimited power to impose on the United States the expenditure of vast sums of money in accordance with such philosophy of government and foreign policy as the Secretary of State may dictate.

12. The treaty enables the complete nationalization and internationalization of the two river systems even to the exclusion of states' rights.

That representatives of the State Department themselves do not regard the proposed Mexican treaty as one merely confined to the division of river waters between the two countries, clearly is revealed in a statement made by Professor Charles A. Timm, Divisional Assistant in the Division of Mexican Affairs, Department of State, and published under date of March 25, 1944 in State Department Bulletin No. 248, Vol X. Says Professor Timm:

"Considered in the light of previous treaties relating to the use of water from international streams for various purposes, it is not improbable that the treaty of February 3, 1944, now awaiting action in the Senate, may come to be regarded as the most important of its kind in the history of the world, both in the range and scope of its provisions and in its social and economic significance. It is more than a mere division of water between two countries; it provides the administrative machinery and the principles for international cooperation in the development of these resources. As such, it may well be taken as a model for future treaties governing international streams."

Thus does Professor Timm of the State Department boast of the extraordinary and, indeed, the revolutionary provisions of the proposed treaty, and thus does he predict that an effort will be made to extend these same principles into the terms of future treaties.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Lake Mathews, the five-mile-long terminal storage reservoir for the main line of the aqueduct has entered active war service. It has been recognized as an emergency landing basin by at least one crew of a twin-motor flying boat.

The flying boat, heading westward from Fort Worth, Texas, developed motor trouble coming across the Colorado River desert country. Coasting through the San Geronio Pass, the pilot picked up the broad water expanse of Lake Mathews, southwest of Riverside, and made a safe landing. After repair parts had been flown in from a Pacific Coast Naval Base, the ship proceeded on its way.

Baby chicks and spring gardens are making their appearance around Gene camp these days. Fine gardens are being grown with aqueduct water even in the rocky soil of the desert.

Printed copies of the Index for the 1943 issues of the Aqueduct News, Volume X, were made available during April. Those maintaining permanent files of the News may obtain copies of the Index by communicating with the District's Los Angeles office.



Rufus S. Fee, Carpenter's Mate, First Class, U. S. Navy, has gone native—or has he? For almost 18 months, Rufus has been in foreign service in the North African theatre. In this snapshot, which he enclosed in a letter to his former District associates, he appears in the get-up of a resident of North Africa. Speaking of Colorado River water in his letter, Rufus said, "I should cherish some right now in preference to any drink available in this part of Africa." Before taking military leave in the summer of 1942, Rufus was Field Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Lieutenant Miriam Taylor, U. S. Marines, while on leave from military duties in Washington D. C., visited former associates in the District's Los Angeles offices during April. Before taking military leave from the District, Miss Taylor was Assistant Controller. She is now attached to the Operations and Training Section, Plans and Organization Unit, Aviation Division of the Marine Corps. It is not known whether Lieut. Taylor divulged, in response to much questioning, the exact time and place of the western invasion of Germany.

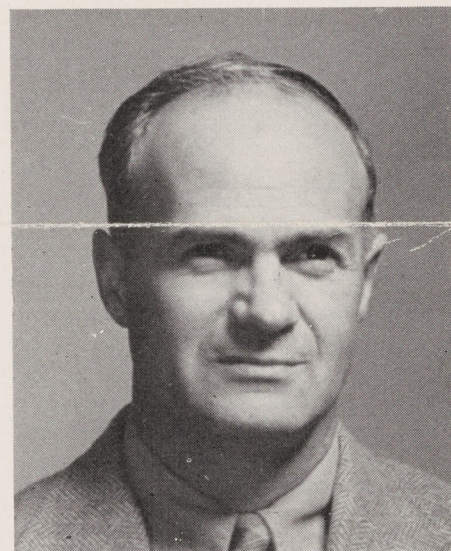
One of the groups making up the Metropolitan Water District Employees Association is composed of aqueducters from Iron, Eagle and Hayfield Pumping Plants, Transmission and Telephone Lines and Aqueduct Maintenance. In April they brought together their far-flung forces and elected their 1944 officers. They are Al Geisler, President, Ralph Adams, Secretary, and Walter Roys and Larry Green. This group is represented on the Board of Control.

District field forces have organized what thus far appears to be a championship softball team. Up to the end of April the Aqueducters had won four out of five games played with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation team at Parker Dam. Members of the District team are as follows: Catcher, Howard Hannah, Mike Weeks; Pitcher, Joe Reider; First Base, Dan Gabele, "Doc" Miller; Second Base, John Rorex, Marion Lynn; Third Base, Paul Winn; Shortstop, Jimmy Yak; Short Field, Art Blassman, Bill Bowlby; Left Field, Walt Murphy; Center Field, Eddie Dussaman; Right Field, Bill Fuel. Taking on any and all comers, the team plays each Wednesday night. On Sundays the women participate. For reasons of state and domestic tranquillity, records of Sunday games are not entered in the score books.

Edward Dussaman, Station Electrician at Intake pumping plant, has announced that Miss Joan Marie, weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces, safely arrived at the Blythe Hospital, April 20. Mrs. Dussaman and the young lady are doing fine. No statement thus far has been issued by a fourth member of the family, Miss Linda, age 2.



Before she donned the uniform of a WAVE, Irene Aide for five years performed stenographic duties in the Purchasing Division and Treasurer's office of the District. She has been in the Navy since September, 1942, and is one of 35 WAVES selected from all over the United States to take special training at a Seattle base. Previously she had been in charge of 90 women in Link training.



Engaged in fresh water operations is Fred D. Chapman, Division Foreman for the District, in charge of Morris Reservoir. He worked on the construction of Morris Dam and Reservoir, and when the District took over the dam from Pasadena in 1941, he was placed in charge of the operation of this link of the aqueduct system.